



Substitute for PTO 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

| | |
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| Application Number | 10/656,246 |
| Filing Date | September 8, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Tadashi NOMURA |
| Art Unit | 2817 |
| Examiner Name | D. Takaoka |
| Attorney Docket Number | 36856.1117 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM -YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | 1 | 5,231,327 | 07-1993 | Ketcham et al. | |
| | 2 | 6,150,703 | 11-2000 | Cushman et al. | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM -YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ Number-Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| DT | 3 | EP 1 041 717 A | 10-2000 | EPO | | X |
| DT | 4 | WO 02/43243 | 05-2002 | WIPO | | X |
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|-----------------------|--|--------------------|---------|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | 3/24/06 |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|---------|

* Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached.

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| Sheet | 2 | of | 2 |
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| Examiner Name | D. Takaoka |
| Attorney Docket Number | 36856.1117 |

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner
Signature**

Wm. F. Sharkey

**Date
Considered**

3/24/06

* Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant unique citation/designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.